

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF BAKER, LOUISIANA
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL**

Dial In: 774-220-4000

PIN: 22537

September 8, 2020

5:00 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, met in regular session on September 8, 2020, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

MAYOR

Darnell Waites

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Glenda Bryant

Rochelle Dunn

Brenda G. Jackson

Dr. Charles Vincent

Robert Young

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Waites presided.

The invocation was given by Council Member Vincent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Young.

DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 25, 2020.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Council Member Dunn asked to make a statement. She stated, regarding the minutes of the August 11, 2020 council meeting – there are two instances where I was shown to have voted to abstain. I would like to state for the record that I did not intend to abstain, however, due to technical difficulties, my voice was not heard when the vote was called for. I want to clarify that this was a technical issue. Thank you.

Council Member Vincent asked that the issue of council meeting times be addressed. He said the issue has been discussed at recent meetings and he would like to be able to tell constituents the correct time.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson to add item “4. Change time of the City of Baker council meetings to 6:00 p.m.” under New Business to the agenda.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

RECOGNITIONS

PLANNING AND ZONING MATTERS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss road transfer – Lavey Lane (Mayor)

Public Works Director Kelvin Ridgley provided an overview of the road transfer process. He stated the city is currently in negotiations with the City of Baton Rouge concerning Lavey Lane.

Discussion regarding the road transfer process followed.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Dunn to add schedule a work session to discuss Lavey Lane road transfer and the LCDB grant to the agenda under New Business.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Elect President and Vice-President of the City Council (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant initiated discussion regarding the election of City Council President and Vice-President. There are two methods being considered. The first is based on the percentage of votes received by each council member and the second is based on leadership qualities.

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Vincent to table this agenda item until the next council meeting.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. Continue discussion on housing in the City of Baker both sides of the coin landlords and tenants (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant said working with landlords and tenants helps with economic development in the city. She said businesses will visit a city and ride through neighborhoods and these visits influence their decision on whether to locate in a community. Council Member Bryant stated that some of the goals of this initiative are neighborhood stabilization, as well as quality and affordable housing. She is asking for everyone's help with this effort.

Council Member Vincent expressed his support for and solidarity with Council Member Bryant's effort. He referenced his Friendly Neighbor Keeper Initiative which was begun several years ago, and is based on the premise that strong, friendly neighborhoods lead to strong and friendly cities. Council Member Vincent's Friendly Neighbor Keeper Initiative advocates for residents to continue to work to improve the community.

Council Member Dunn said she is on board with her colleague's ideas. She also stated that action is necessary to truly effect change, and she is ready to work.

4. *Change time of the City of Baker council meetings to 6:00 p.m.*

The motion was made by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Members Bryant/Jackson to change the time of the City of Baker council meetings to 6:00 p.m.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

5. *Schedule a work session to discuss Lavey Lane road transfer and the LCDB grant*

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to schedule a work session to discuss Lavey Lane road transfer and the LCDB grant on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

PUBLIC MEETING

RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. Resolution to adopt residential anti-displacement and relocation assistance plan (Mayor)

Ashley Lormand, PEC, gave a brief explanation of the grant process and its requirements, and the resolution.

City Attorney Fabre read the resolution.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Bryant to adopt the resolution.

Council Member Bryant reiterated that the city's water/well projects will in no way cause residential displacement or the need for relocation.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

2. Resolution to adopt Section 504 grievance procedure (Mayor)

Ashley Lormand, PEC, provided an overview of the grant requirements and the resolution.

City Attorney Fabre read the resolution.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to adopt the resolution.

Discussion regarding the proposed resolution's purpose was held.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

3. Resolution to adopt a language access plan for the City of Baker relative to Louisiana Community Development Block Grants (Mayor)

Ashley Lormand, PEC, explained the proposed resolution.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Dunn to adopt the resolution.

Council Member Young asked how the city intends to implement the language access plan.

Discussion followed.

Vote was called for.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

4. Proclamation recognizing the importance of the Plank Road Economic Development Corridor (Bryant)

Council Member Bryant stated she is focused on economic development and improving the quality of life in the City of Baker.

City Attorney Fabre read the proclamation.

The motion was made by Council Member Bryant, seconded by Council Member Vincent to accept the proclamation.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

5. Proclamation declaring September 2020 Alzheimer's Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

Council Member Vincent stated Alzheimer's Services of the Capital Area located on North Boulevard is a wonderful resource for those in need of assistance.

City Attorney Fabre read the proclamation.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson to accept the proclamation.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

6. Proclamation declaring September 2020 National Cholesterol Education Awareness Month in the City of Baker (Vincent)

City Attorney Fabre read the proclamation.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson to accept the proclamation.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

BIDS AND PROPOSALS

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

1. Appoint elected representative Eugene "Jimmy" Leger as the fire department board member to the Baker Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board (Mayor)

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Member Jackson to appoint Eugene "Jimmy" Leger as the fire department board member to the Baker Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Council Member Bryant asked about obtaining background information on each board member. The Mayor said that information is available upon request. He also stated that neither man had any opposition, and both have served on the board.

2. Appoint elected representative Travis Wheeler as the police department board member to the Baker Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board (Mayor)
The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Members Dunn/Young to appoint Travis Wheeler as the police department board member to the Baker Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

CONDEMNATIONS

1. 4742 Groom Road (Mayor)
No action was taken on this agenda item.
2. 1556 Alabama (Mayor)
No action was taken on this agenda item.
3. 1832 Florida (Mayor)
No action was taken on this agenda item.
4. 3215 Monroe (Mayor)
No action was taken on this agenda item.
5. 1916 Florida (Mayor)
No action was taken on this agenda item.

ANNEXATIONS

REPORTS ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

1. Planning and Zoning Commission
2. Annexation Review Committee
3. Economic Development Team
4. Heritage Museum/Related Committees
5. ABC Board
6. Other Special Committees
 - a. Buffalo Festival
 - b. Prayer Breakfast
 - c. Strategic Planning Committee
 - d. Citizens Advisory Board to Law Enforcement

NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Kermit Johnson, 13800 Alba, asked that the council vote on his request for resubdivision on Sunshine Road.

Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman Willie Williams stated the request was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission at their meeting on Thursday, September 3, 2020 and a favorable recommendation was forwarded to the council.

The Mayor read an excerpt from the minutes of the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting held on Thursday, September 3, 2020 which included forwarding a favorable recommendation to the council regarding Mr. Johnson's resubdivision request.

Mr. Johnson detailed his request for resubdivision.

The motion was made by Council Member Vincent, seconded by Council Members Bryant/Young to approve the resubdivision request for Kermit Johnson.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Council Member Vincent thanked the Mayor and Public Works Department for cutting the ditches. He announced September is Neighbors Month and September 28th is Neighbors Day and encouraged everyone to support the Friendly Neighbor Keeper Initiative. Council Member Vincent said the community recently lost Lou Brock and Chadwick Boseman. He asked that everyone do their part to make Baker a community we can all be proud of.

Council Member Dunn announced Coming Together to Support Our Schools – an event being held Saturday, September 12, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. at 2856 Groom Road. She said she is supporting this effort and has fliers for distribution. Council Member Dunn stated improvements to the school system are necessary if the city is to grow. She said everyone must work together to better the community. Council Member Dunn welcomed Council Member Young to the council. She reminded everyone to continue to wear masks, wash hands and practice social distancing.

Council Member Bryant welcomed Council Member Young to the council. She stated she would like to see a Krispy Kreme and possibly a Checkers or Rally's restaurant as part of the Plank Road Economic Corridor in the City of Baker. She reminded everyone to stay safe.

Council Member Young thanked everyone for the warm welcome and said he is glad to be back. He commended those who worked on his campaign. Council Member Young thanked Kelvin Ridgley for coming to Buffwood subdivision and addressing concerns regarding the canal. He thanked the Mayor and Ashley Williams for their assistance with an issue on Sinbad. Council Member Young asked the Mayor about the status of the burnt house on Monroe. He also stated he is interested in having the walking path in City Park resurfaced.

Discussion regarding resurfacing the walking path in City Park was held.

The Mayor asked Council Member Young to forward him the address of the burnt house on Monroe so that he can send someone out to assess the situation.

Discussion regarding resurfacing the walking path in City Park resumed.

Council Member Jackson congratulated Council Member Young and said she looks forward to working with him. She announced September 13, 2020 is Grandparent's Day.

Everyone wished Council Member Young a happy birthday.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Mayor welcomed Council Member Young back to the council.

The Mayor stated the city will continue to meet with landlords in an effort to better the community. He said doing so ties in with the newly announced Keep Baker Beautiful initiative.

The Mayor said Plank Road from Thomas Road to the bridge at Brittany's Seafood is the Plank Road Economic Development District. This district was incorporated through legislation spearheaded by Senator Regina Barrow and Representative Barbara Carpenter. The Mayor said plans for the district include bringing in hotels and restaurants and supporting the transit system.

The Mayor stated that generators are being placed at sewer lift stations throughout the city.

The Mayor said there are procedures in place to deal with complaints regarding trash receptacles and trash removal. He said his office speaks with Republic Services on a daily basis.

ADJOURN

The motion was made by Council Member Jackson, seconded by Council Member Vincent to adjourn.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

CITY OF BAKER

PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE

STATE OF LOUISIANA

I, Angela Canady Wall, certify that I am Clerk of the Council for the City of Baker, Louisiana, and that the above and foregoing is a copy of the minutes of a regular meeting of the Council for the City of Baker, Louisiana held on September 8, 2020.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HILLCREST MEMORIAL GARDENS
CITY OF BAKER
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL
Dial In: 774-220-4000
PIN: 22537
September 8, 2020**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, sitting as the Board of Commissioners for the Hillcrest Memorial Gardens, met in regular session on September 8, 2020, with the following members in attendance at the meeting:

COMMISSIONERS

Glenda Bryant
Rochelle Dunn
Brenda G. Jackson
Dr. Charles Vincent
Darnell Waites
Robert Young

CALL TO ORDER – Commissioner Waites presided.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting was called to order and the motion was made by Commissioner Vincent, seconded by Commissioner Jackson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 25, 2020.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Waites, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER NECESSARY BUSINESS

1. Monthly Business Report
2. Other Reports
3. Items Requiring Action

ADJOURN

There was no other business to come before the commission. The motion was made by Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Vincent to adjourn.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Waites, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

**CITY OF BAKER
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

I, Angela Canady Wall, certify that I am Clerk of the Council for the City of Baker, Louisiana, and that the above and foregoing is a copy of the minutes of a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the Hillcrest Memorial Gardens held on September 8, 2020.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BAKER CONSOLIDATED UTILITIES SYSTEM
CITY OF BAKER
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA
TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL
Dial In: 774-220-4000
PIN: 22537
September 8, 2020**

The City Council of the City of Baker, Louisiana, sitting as the Board of Commissioners for the Baker Consolidated Utilities System, met in regular session on September 8, 2020, with the following members attending:

COMMISSIONERS

Glenda Bryant
Rochelle Dunn
Brenda G. Jackson
Dr. Charles Vincent
Darnell Waites
Robert Young

CALL TO ORDER – Commissioner Waites presided.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting was called to order and the motion was made by Commissioner Vincent seconded by Commissioner Bryant to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 25, 2020.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Waites, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER NECESSARY BUSINESS

1. Monthly Business Report
2. Other Reports
3. Items Requiring Action

ADJOURN

There was no other business to come before the commission. The motion was made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Dunn to adjourn.

YEAS: Bryant, Dunn, Jackson, Vincent, Waites, Young

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

**CITY OF BAKER
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

I, Angela Canady Wall, certify that I am Clerk of the Council for the City of Baker, Louisiana, and that the above and foregoing is a copy of the minutes of a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Baker Consolidated Utility System held on September 8, 2020.

Angela Canady Wall, LCMC
Clerk of Council